

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 176484

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AQ

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF JAPANESE SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES TO
AMERICAN SAMOA

REF: A-221

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REF AIRGRAM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. YES, AMERICAN SAMOA IS A DISTINCT ECONOMIC AND CUSTOMS
AREA, SEPARATE FROM THE METROPOLITAN U.S., WITH ITS OWN
CUSTOMS SCHEDULES AND ADMINISTRATION.

2. YES, AMERICAN SAMOA CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS A DEVELOPING
AREA IN TERMS OF REF AIRGRAM. DEPARTMENT WILL TRY TO GET
SPECIFIC FIGURES IF REQUESTED TO DO SO.

3. YES, AMERICAN SAMOA IS RECEIVING GSP TREATMENT FROM
OTHER COUNTRIES, AMONG WHICH IS THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

4. THE EXTENT OF ECONOMIC AID AND SPECIAL ECONOMIC
BENEFITS RECEIVED BY AMERICAN SAMOA FROM METROPOLITAN
U.S. ARE APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR

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IN AN OPERATIONAL GRANT AND TEN MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR
IN SPECIAL GRANTS, I.E. HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE, AND

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

5. NO, THERE WOULD NOT BE ABUSE OF GSP TREATMENT SHOULD IT BE EXTENDED TO AMERICAN SAMOA. THERE ARE NO KNOWN CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WOULD ENABLE IT TO BECOME A TRANS-SHIPMENT POINT FOR U.S. GOODS.

6. FISH PRODUCTS ARE AMERICAN SAMOA'S MAJOR EXPORT TO JAPAN.

7. THERE WOULD NOT BE MUCH IN NEW EXPORTS FROM AMERICAN SAMOA TO JAPAN BASED ON THE AREA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS. IN TERMS OF MANUFACTURING CAPACITY, THE AREA CURRENTLY HAS ONE WATCH MANUFACTURER AND A SMALL SCALE JEWELRY INDUSTRY.

8. PLEASE INFORM DEPARTMENT OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOJ RE EXTENSION OF TARIFF PREFERENCES TO AMERICAN SAMOA. KISSINGER

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